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Charles Merz queried six of the most important editors in the country as to their opinions of the biggest news stories of 1926. The "first ten" as listed by Mr. Merz in the "New Republic" were:

The Hall-Mills Case (first by an overwhelming majority); the general strike in England; the Dempsey-Tunney fight; the death of Rudolph Valentino; the trans-arctic flight of the airship Norge; Queen Marie; the Florida hurricane; the World Series; Byrd's flight to the Pole; Calles and the Catholic Church in Mexico.

Other stories which received several votes but not enough to qualify were Aimee McPherson, the President Roosevelt's rescue at sea, Peaches Browning, and the Eucharistic Congress.

When asked to define the really essential element in "big news," William Allen White said, "Human importance;" Kent Cooper said, "Human disaster;" and the others agreed that it was some composite into which crime, sex, novelty, and conflict entered in varying degree.

Fremont Older frankly admitted that "competition is growing and there is more pressure on all of us as time passes. . . . We editors select news according to the appeal in it, trying always to play the story that has the widest appeal. Sometimes it is a football game, sometimes a prize-fight, sometimes a murder mystery, and sometimes a scandal, but we are always striving to estimate as near as we can the story that will sell the greatest number of papers."